

Season begins for arts and crafts shopping

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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It's time to start thinking about what to buy for family and friends this holiday season. Art is a one-of-a-kind gift that tells the receiver you think they're special. A number of shows in October and November offer a variety of paintings, ceramics, jewelry, photography, ornaments, and sculpture suitable for giving.

Here's a guide to where art works are available:

Farmington artist Alice Nichols refers to her watercolors as "peaceful paintings." Many of the scenes were painted at locations near or at her cabin in Tennessee. The entryways and windows lead the viewer into a world where time has all but stopped.

Weathered wood exteriors, field stone walls, a rusty pump—Nichols cherishes the past and shares them with viewers through her hand-painted paintings. She also sells art with stories. Two weeks ago, Nichols took a group of budding artists down to Tennessee to paint the beauty of a purple coneflower contained behind a rusted wire fence.

"I love my 'valley,'" said Nichols. "I hope people find enjoyment in these, something they can relate to. The Museum of Appalachia is a reconstructed village with sheep, goats, barn



Valley View:
Alice Nichols
painted this
scene from
the porch of
her Tennessee
cabin.

and schools, and Appalachian crafts. I like the old traditional stuff. I'm fascinated with nature. I love rust. It has much more character than new stuff."

The Livonia Arts Commission is exhibiting Nichols' paintings through Saturday, Oct. 31 in the Civic Center Library, 32775 Five Mile, east of Farmington Road.

An instructor at William Tynale College in Farmington Hills and Oakland Community College in Royal Oak, Nichols has been painting for more than 40 years. She taught art in junior and senior high schools in Farmington while studying for a master's degree in art education at the University of Michigan.

"I love teaching," said Nichols. "It's exciting to motivate people and share. In college, I had a dull art appreciation teacher and swore I'd never become like him."

Through the years, Nichols,

who exhibits nationally and locally, has shared art with the community in a number of ways. As a charter member of the Farmington Artists Club, she founded the Picture Lady program in Farmington Schools. In recognition of her service to the community, the Farmington Jaycees named her Citizen of the Year and the Farmington Area Arts Commission honored her with its Artist in Residence Award.

"I like entering competitions, to challenge myself and just to exhibit," said Nichols. "I want my students to realize you don't have to be in awe of art but it's hard work. If you focus on all rules will you get a perfect painting? No, that comes from inside and with time. When someone asks me how long it took me to complete a painting, I say 40 years."

Something for everyone

The Sugarloaf Art Fair comes to the Novi Expo Center 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Oct. 23-25. More than 325 nationally recognized craft designers and fine artists from 37 states and Canada will show jewelry, clay and porcelain pottery, garden sculptures, art dolls, and stained glass panels.

Admission is \$6, children under 10 free. Call (800) 888-9467.

Traditional and contemporary paintings, sculptures, blown glass, pottery, jewelry, and hand woven clothing are among the items for sale by 180 artists including Laura Amendt (glass) and Shari Cohen (jewelry) of Farmington Hills; Molly Baran (fabric); Bette Bloomfield Hills, and Debbie Bloom (fiber) and Kathy Phillips (paintings), West Bloomfield.

Admission is \$6, children under age 12 free. For information, call (609) 210-9900.

Local artists showing their work are Barbara Gibson (pillows) and Diane Dunn (porcelain tiles); Livonia; Carole Berborth (clay); Bloomfield Hills; Stan Megdall (glass); West Bloomfield; Cuba Black (hand painted silk clothing); Farmington; Suzanne Jongkind (jewelry); Lake Orion; Catherine Hilker (art dolls); Novi; and Catherine McClung (third art); Whiteford Lake. McClung is the talent behind Lenox's best selling "bird chimes."

Fine art for sale

Canton Project Arts hosts its sixth annual Fine Arts Exhibition Saturday-Friday, Oct. 31 to Nov. 6 at Summit on the Park. Cash prizes totaling \$1,500 will be awarded to Best of Show, Second, Third Place, and Merit Award winners after judging by Marjorie Hogan Chellstorp, a Madonna University assistant professor of art and humanities.

Held to coincide with the nationwide celebration of October as National Arts and Humanities Month, the exhibition's goal is to encourage an appreciation for the arts and to showcase talent. Beware though. Not all of the art is for sale. More on this next Sunday. In the meantime for more information, call (734) 397-6450.

Winter Art Fair

The 25th Ann Arbor Winter Art Fair takes place 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25 at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road.

Admission is \$5, children

Cave, who received his MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art, has received wide attention for his art along with his association with graffiti artist Keith Haring, and performance artist Karen Finley.

Sybaris is located at 202 E. Third Street, Royal Oak; (248) 554-3388.

MEADOW BROOK BENEFIT

Part of the proceeds from this Thursday's performance of "The Miracle Worker" at Meadow Brook Theatre will go to the Leader Dog Deaf-Blind Training program.

For information, (248) 377-3300.

LAST WEEK FOR SYBARIS EXHIBIT

The three one-person exhibit that opened the Sybaris Gallery's fall season will end on Friday.

The expansive show includes Nick Cave's mixed-media drawings and constructions; June Schlueter's enamel vessels; and Alan Burton Thompson's jewelry.

For information, (248) 377-3300.

ART SHARE

The seventh annual ArtShare Invitational brings together the art of more than 100 Michigan artists for silent and live auctions 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 in the atrium of the Standard Federal Building, 2600 West Big Beaver, Troy.

Photographer Junebug Clark of Farmington Hills; painter/tile designer Robert Dempster, Birmingham; African American quilt designer Carole Harris, Detroit; jewelry artist Caroline Fuerst and painter/wood sculptor Henry Heading, Lathrup Village; tile maker David Ellison, St. Clair Shores, and painter Dominic Pangborn, Detroit are the seven Invitational artists whose work will be in the live auction. Celebrity masters of cer-

emonies are Huel Perkins of WJBK FOX 2 and Sandy Kovach of Smooth Jazz V 98.7 FM.

Tickets are \$50 per person and includes performance by Alexander Zonjic and Friends. Call (248) 626-7527, ext. 3115. Proceeds benefit the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center's programs for severely abused children and families in crisis.

"Empty Bowls"

Pewabic Pottery hosts its annual benefit to alleviate hunger in the community 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6 at the pottery, 10125 East Jefferson.

For a donation of \$10 to \$20, participants choose a bowl donated by local artists, students, children's workshop participants, or Pewabic staff with which they enjoy a meal of soup and bread from restaurants such as Beverly's Grill, Sinbad's, Sparky's, Herbert's, and Tom's Oyster Bar. Guests may then leave the bowl as a reminder of the prevalence of hunger in the community and our power to overcome that hunger. Limit of two bowls per customer. No pre-sale bowls available. All donations go to Gleaners Community Food Bank in Detroit, which serves area agencies feeding the hungry.

Pewabic Pottery's Holiday Invitational Show opens Saturday, Nov. 14 and runs through Dec. 31. "Earthy Treasures" features tiles, jewelry, vessels, ornaments, and ceramic functional and sculptural ware. For collectors, Pewabic is releasing its fourth design of the woodland series along with a 6 by 6 inch reindeer tile.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Pewabic Pottery is also collecting donations of canned and dried food throughout the holidays for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. For further information, call (313) 822-0954.

If you have an interesting idea for a story involving the visual or performing arts, call arts reporter Linda Ann Chomik, (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to lchomin@ec.homecomm.net

13th Anniversary
Mistletoe Madness
NEIMAN MARCUS

NOVEMBER 6, 1998

6:30 p.m. to 12:00 midnight - Dinner guests
8:30 p.m. to 12:00 midnight - Sans dinner guests

JOIN US FOR A BLACK TIE EVENING OF SEASON'S GREETINGS
Gourmet Feasting ♦ Silent & Live Auctions ♦ Live Entertainment and Dancing

\$50 Sans Dinner Guest - per person

\$125 Dinner Guest per person

\$175 Patron/Dinner Guest per person

For more information call the Junior League office (248) 640-2013

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Franklin Community Antiques Show

October 22, 23, 24, 1998

Special Preview Party Thursday, October 22, 1998. From: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tickets \$40.00 Per Person. Includes hors d'oeuvres and Cappuccino bar. Beat the crowd and have the wonderful opportunity to choose from the large selection of antiques presented by 33 different dealers.

Friday, October 23, 1998

Show hours 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 24, 1998

Show hours 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

General admission for Friday and Saturday \$6.00 per person

Looking for something to do? Well then get into your car and come over to the Village of Franklin for the 1998 Franklin Community Antiques Show. Our Country Kitchen will have delicious food if you desire a snack. The Bake Sale will provide freshly baked bread and pies as well as other wonderful items. This is your opportunity to purchase great antiques of all kinds at the Franklin Community Church 32473 Normandy Road, Franklin, MI. (248) 626-6606. The church is located in the heart of Franklin, off Franklin Road, west of Telegraph Road between 13 and 14 Mile roads.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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